

CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

MINUTES FOR Meeting of June 2, 2020

As Approved by the City Council at their regular meeting of _____

The public is advised that pursuant to Government Code Section 54957.5 all writings submitted to the City Council are public records and will be made available for review.

Please note that minutes are not verbatim minutes and are meant to be the City's record of a summary of actions that took place at the meeting. City Council video recording are kept for a period of one year from date of meeting.

Notice: All resolutions and ordinances introduced and/or adopted under this agenda are waived of all reading of entire resolution(s) and ordinance(s).

The Sebastopol City Council welcomes you to its meetings that are generally scheduled for the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of every month. Your interest and participation are encouraged and appreciated.

SIMULTANEOUS MEETING COMPENSATION DISCLOSURE (Government Code § 54952.3): Members of the City Council receive no additional compensation as a result of convening a joint meeting of the City Council and Successor Agency to the Former Community Development Agency.

SB 751 Legislative bodies of local agencies must publicly report: (1) any action taken and (2) the vote or abstention on each action taken by each member present for the action at a meeting.

*****GOVERNOR'S EXECUTIVE ORDER N-29-20***
RE CORONAVIRUS COVID-19**

CITY COUNCL MEETINGS WILL BE CONDUCTED PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF THE GOVERNOR'S EXECUTIVE ORDERS WHICH SUSPENDS CERTAIN REQUIREMENTS OF THE RALPH M. BROWN ACT.

This meeting complies with the Sonoma County Health Officer's COVID-19 Order to Shelter in Place issued on March 17, 2020, and pursuant to California Governor Newsom's Executive Order N-29-20 issued on March 17, 2020.

CORONAVIRUS DISEASE (COVID-19) ADVISORY

To protect our constituents, City officials and City staff, the City requests all members of the public to follow the California Department of Health Services' guidance and the County of Sonoma's Public Health Officer Order for the Control of COVID-19 restricting group events and gatherings and maintaining social distancing.

Consistent with Executive Order N-29-20, in-person participation by the public will not be permitted and no physical location from which the public may observe the meeting will be available. Remote public participation information follows this agenda.

The public is advised that pursuant to Government Code section 54957.5 all writings submitted to the City Council are public records and will be made available for review.

NOTICE: All Resolutions and Ordinances introduced and/or adopted under this agenda are waived of all reading of entire resolution(s) and ordinance(s).

The Sebastopol City Council welcomes you remotely to its meetings that are generally scheduled for the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of every month. Your interest and participation are encouraged and appreciated.

SIMULTANEOUS MEETING COMPENSATION DISCLOSURE (Government Code § 54952.3): Members of the City Council receive no additional compensation as a result of convening a joint meeting of the City Council and Successor Agency to the Former Community Development Agency
SB 751 Legislative bodies of local agencies must publicly report: (1) any action taken and (2) the vote or abstention on each action taken by each member present for the action at a meeting.

City Council Regular Meetings are available in real time and archived on Livestream. Important Notice
The City of Sebastopol shows both live broadcasts and Video Archive of City Council Meetings over the Internet. Your attendance at this public meeting may result in the recording and broadcast of your image and/or voice.

- Here is the link: <http://bit.ly/sebcctv>

There are times that the meetings may not be live streamed due to technical issues; if that is the case, the meeting will be video-taped and uploaded as soon as possible to the City Web Site.

SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING – INTERVIEW

5:30 pm CONVENE CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING (Interview) by Teleconference Only Per Shelter in Place Directive

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Slayter called the regular meeting to order at 5:36 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

Present: Mayor Slayter – By video teleconference
Vice Mayor Glass – By video teleconference
Councilmember Carnacchi – By video teleconference
Councilmember Gurney - By video teleconference
Councilmember Hinton -By video teleconference

Absent: None

Staff: City Manager/City Attorney Larry McLaughlin
Assistant City Manager/City Clerk Mary Gourley
Administrative Services Director Ana Kwong

INTERVIEW:

1. Interview of Applicant for City Representative on the Sonoma County Library Commission - Vacancy is to Fill Remaining Term Due to Resignation for the Position on the Sonoma County Library Commission for a Representative from Sebastopol (Term Ends July 31, 2022)

The City Council conducted an interview for an opening on the City Representative on the Sonoma County Library Commission - Vacancy is to Fill Remaining Term Due to Resignation for the Position on the Sonoma County Library Commission for a Representative from Sebastopol (Term Ends July 31, 2022).

- Interview conducted with Joel Neuberg.
- Appointment to be conducted later in the agenda.

City Council Action: Conducted Interview for City Representative on the Sonoma County Library Commission - Vacancy is to Fill Remaining Term Due to Resignation for the Position on the Sonoma County Library Commission for a Representative from Sebastopol (Term Ends July 31, 2022).

Minute Order Number: 2020-114

ADJOURNMENT: Mayor Slayter adjourned the Special City Council Meeting at 6:03 pm.

6:00 pm CONVENE CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING by Teleconference Only Per Shelter in Place Directive

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Slayter called the regular meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

Present: Mayor Slayter – By video teleconference
 Vice Mayor Glass – By video teleconference
 Councilmember Carnacchi – By video teleconference
 Councilmember Gurney - By video teleconference
 Councilmember Hinton -By video teleconference

Absent: None

Staff: City Manager/City Attorney Larry McLaughlin
 Assistant City Manager/City Clerk Mary Gourley
 Administrative Services Director Ana Kwong
 Bill Braga, Fire Chief
 Henry Mikus, Engineering Manager
 Kari Svanstrom, Planning Director
 Greg DeVore, Acting Police Chief
 Dante Del Prete, Public Works Superintendent

Mayor Slayter read a prepared statement.

It's not us versus them. Or them versus us.

It's only us, and right now we're in a tough place, all of us.

Toughness is as ephemeral as smoke. Talk of domination only shows weakness, a lack of vision, a dearth of creativity, and an unwillingness to admit when you're wrong.

It's not about winning and the inevitable consequence that for there to be a winner, there must also be a loser.

It's not about being aggressive and showing how tough you are; how about we flip the script and say how much we care about others? Just because someone is a bully with a stick or a gun or a megaphone doesn't mean they are right. It often means the polar opposite.

An important thing I can do right now is to publicly acknowledge the privilege I was born with; I am a white male, provided the benefits of a world-class education, the stability of a loving family, a financial

circumstance that allows me comfort, and access to peerless health care. My life experience does not include being instructed as a child how to talk with a law enforcement officer. Nor have I ever felt the need to walk into a parking garage with keys between my fingers to fight off a potential attack. I have benefited from systems put in place by others like me, to the likely detriment of others who may be different.

And it is time for this to change.

I grasp the import of the new America, with its once-unthinkable changes – gay marriage, gender-free restrooms, newly elected young idealists holding press conferences in the capital, and all kinds of women and people of color moving up all kinds of ladders in politics, entertainment, law, medicine, and even the presidential election. For generations these have been largely private white men's clubs.

But these advances are not enough; we must continue to work on equality as if lives depend on it - because they do.

The melting pot of America is real; brown people, yellow people, black people, and wonderfully multi-colored people all woven into the fabric of America.

I acknowledge this new America is not the America many grew up in. This new America is not the America many people want, and our current reality is the new America we are becoming is the America many people are working to stop dead in its tracks.

We might be too close or frightened to see it, but our country is being reborn, for all of its troubles now. There are a lot of tectonic plates shifting against one another.

Self-serving offerings of moral superiority aren't going to cut it, and I apologize for adding to the stack with these comments. If people of compassion and empathy wish to see an equitable America emerge, they need to support something more concrete than trashing people they don't agree with on Facebook and Twitter. We need actions bolder than texting and internet memes. Standing on street corners calling for peace and equality is a feeble start, but it is a start.

We, as a nation, are racist and we need to change – we need to stop being racist.

The Council has received a number of emails asking for the Sebastopol Police Department to be defunded, disbanded or otherwise disabled. We will be discussing the budget later in the evening so I won't get into that particular item now. What I will share is that the City of Sebastopol and the Sebastopol Police Department take the topic of equality very seriously. Officers are trained in Bias Based Policing, Racial Profiling, Crisis Intervention and Domestic Violence and I can guarantee the City Council has every intention of increasing and enhancing these trainings. I know there have been situations in the past that have caused great pain in our community. Those things happened and they cannot be undone. What we can do now is everything possible to ensure bias of any kind is eliminated, de-escalation is a first priority and that the City of Sebastopol and the Sebastopol Police Department are fully committed to community-oriented policing by building lasting relationships with members of our community and encouraging trust going both directions.

Mayor Slayter read a prepared statement regarding the process of the city council meeting. "This is a meeting that is consistent with Executive Order N-29-20, in-person participation by the public will not be

permitted, and no physical location from which the public may observe the meeting will be available.”

This meeting is being conducted utilizing teleconferencing and electronic means consistent with State of California Executive Order N 29 20 dated March 17, 2020, regarding the COVID 19 pandemic. The live stream of the meeting will be uploaded to the city web site as soon as possible after this meeting.

We will be conducting today’s meeting in a virtual setting using Zoom. City Council members and staff are participating from remote locations practicing appropriate social distancing. Members of the public may view and listen to the meeting by use of Zoom as noted on the City’s website and as noted on the agenda.

Members of the public wishing to speak to the City Council on any item listed on the agenda, may do so during the discussion of each item.

Each Public Comment is normally restricted to three (3) minutes in length. Due to the Shelter in Place Order, we are allowing Public Comment to include those attending via Zoom.

If you are joining us from Zoom, please “raise your hand” on the application, or on your phone by dialing *9 during the public comment periods. You will then be unmuted for your public comment.

Anyone using abusive, vulgar, offensive, threatening, or harassing language, personal attacks of any kind or offensive terms that target specific individuals or groups will be muted and removed from the meeting.

Please do not abuse this new way to provide public comment.

SALUTE TO THE FLAG: Mayor Slayter led the salute to the flag.

PROCLAMATIONS/PRESENTATIONS:

***Proclamations and Presentations have been suspended until further notice.**

PUBLIC COMMENT (At this time, members of the public may comment on any item not appearing on the agenda. It is recommended that you keep your comments to three minutes or less. Under State Law, unless otherwise permitted under the Ralph M. Brown Act, the merits of the matters presented under this item cannot be discussed or acted upon by the City Council at this time. For items appearing on the agenda, the public will be invited to make comments at the time the item comes up for Council consideration.)

Public Comments Received by Email Prior to the Meeting:

A copy of the emails submitted prior to the City Council meeting have been made a part of the public record.

A list of emails received are as follows and were made available to the City Council as well as placed on the city web site:

Jessie Brandt

- Dr. José Javier Hernández Ayala
- John Eder
- Emma Demorest
- Emily Gaynor
- Josephine Ellen Sanders
- Sam Judge

- Jordan Libby
- Allie Andrus
- Paul Fritz, The Core Project
- Sarah Poplack
- Diana Badger
- Stella Sappington
- Claire McDonell

STATEMENTS OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST BY MAYOR/CITY COUNCILMEMBERS FOR ITEMS ON THE AGENDA (This is the time for the Mayor or City Councilmembers to indicate any statements of conflicts of interests for any item listed on this agenda) *There were none.*

DISCUSSION AND ACTION:

2. Discussion of Appointment for City Representative on the Sonoma County Library Commission - Vacancy is to Fill Remaining Term Due to Resignation for the Position on the Sonoma County Library Commission for a Representative from Sebastopol (Term Ends July 31, 2022)

Mayor Slayter presented the agenda item recommending the City Council consider appointment for the City Representative on the Sonoma County Library Commission - Vacancy is to Fill Remaining Term Due to Resignation for the Position on the Sonoma County Library Commission for a Representative from Sebastopol (Term Ends July 31, 2022).

Mayor Slayter opened for questions. There were none.

Mayor Slayter opened for public comment. There were none.

Council Deliberations:

Vice Mayor Glass commented as follows:

- It's hard for me to imagine anybody more qualified
- I think we will be very well served as Sebastopol and the public as a whole will be well served with his thoughtfulness and understanding of our libraries and the library system, and the really critical role that libraries play in providing information and a way to bridge the digital divide

Councilmember Hinton commented as follows:

- Very impressed with what he did and the story he relayed from his time in Forestville, at the library there, and it sounds like he's not afraid to speak up
- Obviously has been in the library business for a long time, so I fully endorse Joel as our appointee

Councilmember Gurney commented as follows:

- I've known him for a number of years
- I would then move to appoint Joel to fill out the remainder of Stephen's term

Mayor Slayter commented as follows:

- Echo the comments of my colleagues

- I think that it would be difficult for us to find somebody with deeper roots, with more experience, and who would be as highly qualified as Joel

Councilmember Gurney moved and Vice Mayor Glass seconded the motion to appoint Joel Neuberg as the City Representative on the Sonoma County Library Commission - Vacancy is to Fill Remaining Term Due to Resignation for the Position on the Sonoma County Library Commission for a Representative from Sebastopol (Term Ends July 31, 2022).

Mayor Slayter called for a roll call vote. City staff conducted a roll call vote.

VOTE:

Ayes: Councilmember Carnacchi, Gurney, Hinton, Vice Mayor Glass and Mayor Slayter

Noes: None

Absent: None

Abstain: None

**City Council Action: Appointed Joel Neuberg as the City Representative on the Sonoma County Library Commission - Vacancy is to Fill Remaining Term Due to Resignation for the Position on the Sonoma County Library Commission for a Representative from Sebastopol (Term Ends July 31, 2022).
Minute Order Number: 2020-115**

Councilmember Gurney made the following comments:

- I think we're really fortunate in this circumstance to have such a well-qualified single applicant.
- My concern is that, with so many notifications, we either get no response or one response.
- Let's remember our recent effort for the Climate Action Subcommittee.
- We really need to do something different or each of us outreach in our community more.
- I'm not sure what this means about us that we have so few people willing to participate and I would like to encourage us to look at getting more people involved.
- If there's some answer to that, I would appreciate people listening now to tell me how we can do better.

CONSENT CALENDAR:

- The consent agenda consists of items that are routine in nature and do not require additional discussion by the City Council or have been reviewed by the City Council previously. These items may be approved by one motion without discussion unless a member of the City Council requests that the item be taken off the consent calendar.
- The Mayor will read the consent calendar items; ask if a Councilmember wishes to remove one or more items from the consent calendar; and then open public comment to the members of the public in attendance. At this time, a member of the public may speak for up to three minutes on the entire consent calendar and request at that time that an agenda item or items be removed for discussion.
- If an item or items are removed from the consent calendar, the item shall be placed at the end of the regular agenda items unless otherwise determined by the Mayor or Mayor Pro Tern.
- Council Members may comment on Consent Calendar items or ask for minor clarifications without the need for pulling the item for separate consideration. Items requiring deliberation

should be pulled for separate consideration and shall be placed at the end of the regular agenda items unless otherwise determined by the Mayor or Mayor Pro Tem.

Mayor Slayter read the consent calendar.

Mayor Slayter questioned if any Councilmember(s) wanted to remove any item(s) from the consent calendar. There was none.

Mayor Slayter asked for Public Comments: There were no public comments for the consent calendar.

Public Comment(s): None

Councilmember Hinton moved and Councilmember Gurney seconded the motion to approve Consent Calendar Item(s) Number(s) 3.

Mayor Slayter called for a roll call vote. City staff conducted a roll call vote.

VOTE:

Ayes: Councilmember Carnacchi, Gurney, Hinton, Vice Mayor Glass and Mayor Slayter

Noes: None

Absent: None

Abstain: None

CONSENT CALENDAR:

3. Approval of Minutes of the City Council Meeting of May 19, 2020 (Responsible Department: City Administration)

City Council Action: Approved Minutes of the City Council Meeting of May 19, 2020

Minute Order Number: 2020-116

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS/PRESENTATION: (Please Note: Although informational/presentations items are routinely informational in nature, some informational items may contain request for actions such as support, direction to staff, follow up, or receipt of item based on the presentation/information provided.)

4. Information Presentation and Receipt and Acceptance of the City's Annual Audit for Year Ended June 30, 2019 (Responsible Department: Administrative Services/Consultant)

Administrative Services Director Kwong presented the agenda item recommending the City Council receive the informational presentation and accept the City's Annual Audit for Year Ended June 30, 2019.

Director Kwong introduced the City's Consultant, Mitesh Desai, Badawi & Associates, Certified Public Accountants, who provided a presentation to the City Council.

Mayor Slayter asked for questions.

Councilmember Carnacchi commented as follows:

- Have a question with regard to our revenue that we could last for 12 months.
- In comparison to other cities, what do you generally see as an average with other cities?
- From what I understand, the City is in a really good position
- Can you highlight a little bit on that?

Mitesh commented as follows:

- I would say 12 months is definitely on the higher -- I wouldn't say you're alone from our clients.
- I think maybe there might be one or two others that have significant reserves, maybe because of past experience that they've been accumulating it.
- I would say the range probably is within probably from four to eight I would say is probably the most of them.
- We have a couple clients that are in the ones and twos that we're now worried about.
- We already had worries about them before what's been going on.
- Would say you're probably on the top -- on the better edge of things, but I wouldn't say that you're alone.
- I think we have some clients that may have even more than 12, some it's, like, 13, but that's just because I think where they are, they're in the South Bay and the more prevalent area and they just have high property taxes, so it's accumulating.

Councilmember Carnacchi requested a copy of the power point be posted to the City web site. City staff stated it is attached to the staff report as well as posted to the City website as part of the staff report.

Mayor Slayter opened for public comment. There was no public comment.

Council Deliberations: There were no further comments.

The Mayor and City Council thanked the presenter for the presentation to the City Council.

City Council Action: Received Presentation and Receipt and Acceptance of the City's Annual Audit for Year Ended June 30, 2019

Minute Order Number: 2020-117

PUBLIC HEARING(s):

5. Public Hearing on Abatement of Weeds (Responsible Department: Fire)

Fire Chief Braga presented the agenda item recommending the City Council approve the resolution for abatement of weeds.

Mayor Slayter asked for questions. There were none.

Mayor Slayter opened the public hearing. Hearing no comments, Mayor Slayter closed the public hearing.

Council Deliberations: There were none.

Councilmember Gurney moved and Vice Mayor Glass seconded the motion to approve the resolution for abatement of weeds.

Mayor Slayter called for a roll call vote. City staff conducted a roll call vote.

VOTE:

Ayes: Councilmember Carnacchi, Gurney, Hinton, Vice Mayor Glass and Mayor Slayter

Noes: None

Absent: None

Abstain: None

City Council Action: Approved the resolution for abatement of weeds.

Minute Order Number: 2020-118

Resolution Number: 6295-2020

Mayor Slayter requested Item Number 8 be heard prior to remaining agenda items.

8. Public Hearing to Levy and Collect Annual Assessments for FY 2020-2021 for the City of Sebastopol's Lighting Special Assessment District; Resolution Approving the Engineer's Report and Confirming the assessment Diagram and annual assessments and authorize levying of annual assessments for FY 2020-2021 for the City of Sebastopol Landscaping and Lighting Assessment District (Finance Director)

Administrative Services Director Kwong presented the agenda item recommending the City Council conduct a Public Hearing to Levy and Collect Annual Assessments for FY 2020-2021 for the City of Sebastopol's Lighting Special Assessment District; Resolution Approving the Engineer's Report and Confirming the assessment Diagram and annual assessments and authorize levying of annual assessments for FY 2020-2021 for the City of Sebastopol Landscaping and Lighting Assessment District.

Mayor Slayter asked for questions.

Councilmember Carnacchi questioned if staff can explain why it is less this year for customers.

Director Kwong commented as follows:

- Every year will go through an assessment of where the cost of PG&E build, any contracts to services that we have, this is the supply.
- PG&E bill has coming in as lower than what was budgeted.
- It's kind of like recalibrated to ensure that the district has adequate fund balance.
- Goal is not to collect fund balance when we don't have projects for that area.
- It is being adjusted every year based on where we think the estimated actual for 19-20 and what adequate fund balance would
- City passes on those savings to the resident that's in that district or, citywide.

Councilmember Carnacchi questioned if we can we attribute that to the LED lighting, the lower prices to PG&E.

Director Kwong commented as follows:

- Stated she does now know the answer to that
- Suggested the Public Works Superintendent could address that question
- City is seeing from invoices that are coming in from PG&E and Sonoma Clean Power, it's just less than what we budgeted.
- We're still paying for them basically through a zero-interest loan from PG&E.

- Think the real savings will start to be realized in some -- I don't know the number but a few years down the road.
- Rates are rejiggered every year just a little bit usually.
- A couple years ago we had a bit of extra funds built up and it went down significantly for a single year while those funds were basically refunded to the members of the district.

Mayor Slayter opened the public hearing. Hearing no comments, Mayor Slayter closed the public hearing.

Council Deliberations: There were no further comments.

Mayor Slayter moved and Councilmember Hinton seconded the motion to approve the resolution approving Levying and Collecting of Annual Assessments for FY 2020-2021 for the City of Sebastopol's Lighting Special Assessment District; Resolution Approving the Engineer's Report and Confirming the assessment Diagram and annual assessments and authorize levying of annual assessments for FY 2020-2021 for the City of Sebastopol Landscaping and Lighting Assessment District

Mayor Slayter called for a roll call vote. City staff conducted a roll call vote.

VOTE:

Ayes: Councilmember Carnacchi, Gurney, Hinton, Vice Mayor Glass and Mayor Slayter

Noes: None

Absent: None

Abstain: None

City Council Action: Approved the resolution approving Levying and Collecting of Annual Assessments for FY 2020-2021 for the City of Sebastopol's Lighting Special Assessment District; Resolution Approving the Engineer's Report and Confirming the assessment Diagram and annual assessments and authorize levying of annual assessments for FY 2020-2021 for the City of Sebastopol Landscaping and Lighting Assessment District

Minute Order Number: 2020-121

Resolution Number: 6297-2020

6. Public Hearing – To conduct a Public Hearing on Interim Fiscal Year 2020-2021 City of Sebastopol Baseline Budget (Responsible Department: Administrative Services)

Administrative Services Director Kwong presented the agenda item recommending the City Council conduct a Public Hearing on Interim Fiscal Year 2020-2021 City of Sebastopol Baseline Budget.

Mayor Slayter asked for questions.

Vice Mayor Glass commented as follows:

- City received a lot of emails from the public expressing concern about why we had these budget fund increases and why the cost of our police department has gone up in this budget by ten to 12 percent
- She stated that police, public works and fire departments have all gone up
- Budget was developed as a template

- Copy of last year's budget because we didn't even have enough data to figure out what to do with this year's budget because of the whole COVID-19 thing.
- And so, we're in this state of flux, not understanding how bad the revenue hit is going to be.
- So, that's why all we did was basically replicate last year's budget.
- However, despite just copying last year's budget, we have a 10 percent increase in police and a 12% in fire and 11% in Public works
- Can the Administrative Services Director explain to us why there are these increases when we have a replicated budget?

City Manager McLaughlin commented as follows:

- This an interim budget, and largely it is flat, meaning that it repeats simply what we are doing the present year and continues it for another three or four months until the budget committee can do the full departmental analysis.
- However, we have a number of contractual obligations.
- The administrative services director went over some of those with respect to our insurance payments, the costs of the various insurances have gone up somewhat, and staff did go through those.
- City is going into the second year of three-year MOUs.
- City is also contractually bound to meet the financial commitments, starting on July 1, of the second year of each of those MOUs that council entered into last year.
- So, we have included those figures and they have resulted in some increases in salaries in the departments.
- This is not due to anything other than the contractual commitments we have made with respect to the MOUs with our represented employees and our unions.
- So, we were required to include those.
- Now, other cities are discussing, as you know, or preliminarily discussing at least, the possibilities of layoffs and other furlough-type methods to balance their budget in the future.
- In our situation, and you heard both in the audit and as you heard from the finance director tonight in her presentation, we have very significant amount of reserves.
- We were very proactive in our reserves and they are saving us right now.
- So, I'm very glad that they are there, but one of the effects of those reserves are that we really have no leeway, at this moment, to make any changes or propose any changes, at least not at this time, with respect to the obligations we have to the employee unions that we negotiated with a year ago.
- So, that's another element of contractual obligations that this budget will reflect.
- If we didn't increase those salaries in this year's budget right now, we would not be able to meet the obligations we are contractually bound to meet come July 1.

Councilmember Hinton commented as follows:

- To follow up, along with Vice Mayor Glass, I'm on the budget subcommittee and those numbers looked high to me as well.
- But I understood the fire number as we have a new fire position coming on that we did not hire last year, so I assumed that number was higher because of that and because of our insurance and other obligations.

- But I just want to be clear with the city manager, my understanding, as I think my committee co-part with Vice Mayor Glass, is that this is a flat budget and those numbers are only including our contract obligations for healthcare and as negotiated with our employee unions.
- I just want to make sure that that is what we're talking about tonight because I don't want anything slipping through that we're not asking this question, because we have not had a chance to review this budget in detail.

City Manager McLaughlin commented as follows:

- Obviously, there is nothing in here, I can state flatly, that we are trying to slip through or accidentally include it or anything else.
- It is, and as I said, it's my understanding that this a flat line budget with the exception of those areas that I alluded to where we are contractually bound and have to meet our legal obligations under existing contracts effective July 1.

Administrative Services Director Kwong commented as follows:

- I concur with the city manager that the reason that you've seen -- and I can assure you, there's no extra position - We did not bill any of the requests for additional position in here.
- This is purely the contractual obligation with the bargaining group.
- The insurance has gone up.
- The medical insurance has gone up significantly.
- Those numbers are the reflection in the increase that you see in salary and benefits when they group together.
- There is no extra position. We had the fire position funded, but not filled for the entire year. The actual cost in fire for salary benefit, would just be the fire chief and the administrative assistant. The person hired for that position will soon come on board and that salary is in FY 20-21.
- When you compare 2021, what we budgeted for a full body, compared with what had for FY 19-20 you are going to see a significant increase in the fire department

Councilmember Hinton commented as follows:

- Discussed the \$100,000 grant for police
- Where is that from and is that offsetting the percentage for police, which means that they're actually getting a grant of 100,000, so that means the police budget is actually up by another 100,000

Director Kwong commented no, if you net with the \$ 400,000 that you see as far as their increase, then their budget is up by about \$300, not \$500,000.

Councilmember Hinton questioned where the grant is coming from.

Director Kwong commented as follows:

- The grant has always been there – it is the supplemental law enforcement grant that has always been sitting in a special revenue fund.
- One of the positions in the police department has been allocated fully to that fund.

- You get a grant and you think that it's going to pay for everything - It usually doesn't pay for the entire body - It probably pays for 75 percent of the body - And the shortfall is being funded from general fund.
- It would be a transfer out from general fund into the supplemental fund to make that fund whole, because, at the end of the year, when you audit, you can't have special revenue fund be in a negative position.
- Now that we're trying to be all transparent and house the police all in one place, we moved that position back into the general fund and transferred that money.
- The money will come into -- still be coming to that fund so that we have a trail, but this is truly the supplemental law enforcement income.
- Then we'll transfer out to offset the cost in the general fund for that position.

Councilmember Hinton commented as follows:

- Stated it is the same amount as last year
- Stated the amount is unchanged
- Same amount of supplemental funds
- Same grant as last year for same amount

Director Kwong stated that is correct.

Councilmember Hinton questioned the increase in the police department and questioned if the increase is due to the MOU negotiations and health insurance.

Director Kwong commented as follows:

- Three things that would cause those increase.
- There are officers or FTE in the department that has not been at their top step yet - So, there is the merit increase that goes in there.
- There's a medical insurance that went up.
- So, when we have the contractual obligation that we negotiate with the union, their salary goes up this much, and then CalPERS also goes up.
- It is kind of like a domino effect.
- When you have a salary increase, whatever that percentage is, if it's the same, it's still a higher amount.
- But PERS percentage is never the same every single year, so it's gone up as well.
- With public safety, it's gone up quite a bit.

Councilmember Hinton questioned if the PERS obligation and public safety budget is going up higher than in other departments.

Director Kwong stated that is correct.

Councilmember Hinton questioned the line item budget for the police department.

Director Kwong discussed the line item budgets as follows:

- Salary went up (Line item 4010)
- Benefits went up (Line item 4100)

Councilmember Gurney commented it's really important that we point the public in this direction and make it really, really clear what the numbers mean, because there's so much concern that we've heard in the email about this additional \$457,000.

The Council requested clear, easy to read budget information so that the public can understand the budget.

Mayor Slayter commented as follows:

- We have all the different departments in the city.
- We have the Police Department, we have a Fire Department, Building, Public Works, Planning, Administration.
- City Council is its own department under the way that the budget is organized, and each department has its own chapter in our city budget.
- If you go to the agenda item that is published, you can download it off our website
- The budget collection starts off with kind of an overview of where all the funds come from and, generally, where they all get disbursed.
- Then as you move through the pages of the budget book, it's a bound book of many hundreds of pages, and then as you work through it, each individual department has a complete breakdown of literally down to the individual dollar.
- You can go in and see what the differences are.
- Historically it goes back a couple of years, the columns, and you can see where we are with other changes to the budget.
- So, if you have any questions at all, this is where you can go and see the differences from year to year, and if anybody -- remember, if the public has any questions at all, of course, you're always welcome to contact any Council member individually, or directly to the Administrative Services director and senior staff over at City Hall, and we can get you an answer as to what any individual line item is, and transparency and how we operate financially is probably the number-one thing that during my tenure on Council that we pay particular attention to.
- We want to be as transparent as possible to let people know this is public money, and we are doing our level best to keep a close eye on it and to spend it appropriately and prudently, and to save when we need to and spend out of those savings when we need to.
- Every year it's a balance act

Vice Mayor Glass commented as follows:

- Wanted to explain one more thing, and that's one of the things we found out is that, thanks to our large reserve, it means that we don't have a lot of latitude in terms of reshuffling staff or layoffs, because we have legal issues with, because we aren't broke.
- We can't make a lot of changes to those obligations.
- Even though we're going to lose a lot of money, we're going to have a big loss, because our revenue is down so much, it's sort of like, legally we have to use up our reserves.
- We can't reduce our expenses because of that we have a big reserve.

City Manager McLaughlin commented as follows:

- Put another way, having 40 percent reserves is almost unheard of, so it's almost like we were prepared for this, not knowing it was coming.
- But we're in year two of contractual obligations to our bargaining unit, and we really don't have money to not pay them.
- Not only that, but none of the MOUs have any reopening clauses along the lines that if something dire happens, you can bring your employees back the bargaining table.
- None of our MOUs have those provisions in them.
- They were common during the economic downturn when you didn't know from one year to the next whether you could even keep your doors open almost literally.
- They're uncommon for us at this point in time to have any kind of a reopener in an MOU.
- One of the reasons, another reason along with what I said, is we are the most minimally staffed cities that I'm actually aware of.
- I don't mean just in terms of solid numbers of staff members, I mean sort of like in the percentage, where you would expect two or three administrative assistants at the highest level of admin services, there are zero administrative assistants in City Administration.
- That is another reason why you're going to hear other cities talk about layoffs.
- Our 40 percent reserves, our minimal staffing, and then negotiated contracts, you will not be able to hear about layoffs right now for our staff, despite the financial losses we suffered during the pandemic.

Mayor Slayter commented as follows:

- For perspective, I was on one of the league of cities webinars talking about municipal finances in the time of COVID, and I believe it was Malibu, that is in a position where they have, I think, 75 or 80 percent of their annual budget in reserve, so they've been hoarding money.
- We are in an extremely strong position with the money that we have very prudently saved in a savings account for the rainy-day fund, common term for it.
- We've just been prudently savings money, and I think we're in a good place with it.
- We also need to understand that, as I believe Councilmember Carnacchi mentioned this at some point recently, that reminded me of the training we all go through as far as municipal finance and budget, and the worry is, once you start actually spending out of your reserves to cover your ordinary operating expense, it's sort of a red flag
- When we are doing that it is either an extraordinary circumstance, like we find ourselves in now, or it's some other large purchase that we have been saving for, and, therefore, pulling money out of reserves.
- Just found out in our audit, we're in strong financial position, thankfully, and largely also huge thanks to our staff who does so much for so little staffing-wise.
- We all commend you as often as we on that.

Councilmember Gurney commented as follows:

- I want to make sure we understand the revenue projections, and I think it would be good for staff to say out loud, especially for the public, the explanation for the decrease of the revenue
- These are our best estimates at this time

- It is my understanding, where the impact of the COVID pandemic, is roughly 16 percent to 19 percent drop sales tax, property tax, all of those categories of income,
- Are we anticipating that that will stay that way - dropping?
- Is that our best estimate for the year, or are we thinking by September all those numbers could change as well and go down even more?
- Where is staff sitting with those numbers right now?

City Manager McLaughlin commented as follows:

- Those estimates definitely could change.
- Part of the estimates now are speculative because the full month of the pandemic is not included, so we honestly don't know.
- We've had some businesses that have been hit hard financially and many businesses were closed and we will wait to hear if they re-open
- We will have to wait on our next report from the sales tax and we'll have a much better picture of the finances
- Recommendation of the budget committee to delay the full budget review for a period of approximately 3 months

Councilmember Gurney commented as follows:

- In an earlier meeting, we authorized a city manager to negotiate with our businesses, the potential delay of sales tax income to the city, that payment of sales tax with a first period of time and then the potential for an additional 30 days
- How is that going?
- Is anybody looking, do you think, to ask for a greater delay.

City staff stated not that they were aware of.

Mayor Slayter opened the public hearing.

Jim Wheaton commented as follows:

- Appreciating the work everybody does there.
- Glad the City has a surplus, and it seems like the increases in the policing is due to existing contracts, if I can summarize that correctly.
- But I am just worried that the cost of the COVID are going to extend over many years in term of a loss of income, and we should be prepared to negotiate belt tightening in all the departments and with all the unions.
- I'm sure we can weather this year, but if we go into a recession or a depression, we need everybody to be able to renegotiate, so I'm hoping that that is coming up on the legal team's calendars.

Claire commented as follows:

Stated she sent an email earlier

Hope the Council read the email

Hearing no further comments, Mayor Slayter closed the public hearing.

Council Deliberations:

Mayor Slayter commented as follows:

- The budget that we have is the budget that we asked for, flatline with contractual increases in what we have agreed to with our bargaining units, which are three in the city.
- I'm not sure that that's actually ever been stated this evening for those of you who are not city insiders.
- We have our police department, we have the SEIU, and we have the unrepresented group, which represents itself, and it's largely management and middle-management level as a collective group of bargaining units.
- Those are the three units, and, as the city manager stated, we're in second year of a three-year memorandum of understanding; that's MOU.
- The budget we have is identical to last year as it can possibly be
- Not looking forward to what we're needing to do in, likely, September as far as taking care of eliminating it as an interim budget and actually doing a new budget.
- There's going to be a lot of interesting facts come out between now and then.

Vice Mayor Glass commented as follows:

- I need to address the very large number of comments that I received from the public, and their concern – especially they're concerned about the police budget.
- We all received a number of requests for reducing the police budget significantly, making changes to all of that, and a suggestion that we transfer money out of the police budget and more into social services and into support for homelessness and into support for mental health services and things like that.
- First of all, as a small city and like other small cities, we do not provide social services - They're generally provided for through the county.
- Many of these requests, although I completely agree with them, cannot be implemented through us as a city, because the revenue streams that support those kinds of things are actually not through -- don't come through us as a city.
- There are restrictions about how we can spend money, and the infrastructure for social services and a lot of those things is not in place for us as a city.
- I am in complete sympathy and in agreement with a lot the comments.
- We received that we are doing things like using our police department to address issues like homelessness, and issues of mental health, that really ought to be addressed by professionals in those areas.
- We need help of social service workers.
- We need help with homeless -- like the really severe problem that we have with homelessness with the medical issues, particularly with homeless people in the pandemic arena.
- We have young people and elderly people that have no social safety net.
- I keep thinking what is it that I can do and what can we as city do to try and deal with some of these very, very severe problems.

- And some of these things involve us perhaps getting more grant funds to some of our non-profit partners, but in an era where we have less and less money, that's harder and harder.
- I do think that we perhaps need to have some kind of city round tables with how much concern there has been for how we're spending money on police services and we're not spending money on social services.
- I think having some roundtables with the community and having the public interact with us so that they can understand, perhaps with some of our departments, perhaps with our police department to talk about the kinds of issues that people are hearing
- Nationwide concerns with what's been happening in policing nationally, and we have today is Andy Lopez's birthday, and a lot of people are very, very upset with what happened to him.
- We had a lot our people who made comment, talk about Jeremiah Chass, someone who makes me very sad, what happened to him.
- There's a lot of frustration out there.
- There's a lot of concern about how are we, as a community, from now on, going to deal with the kinds of problems that we have seen in policing?
- I think we need to think about when we look at our budget and we look at how we're spending money, we need to address these concerns that are coming in, especially from an awful lot of young people that have sent in messages to us who are classmates of Jeramiah Chass, who remember the terrible things that happened, and we can't just push them under the rug
- The city has contractual obligations that we have to take care of, and I hope that was made clear this evening.
- But I think there is room, and we need to think about maybe agendizing in the future, in the near future, how we might put together some community meetings and some roundtables about addressing concerns that we are hearing from members of our community.
- It is a real tragedy, and it's not just a tragedy. It's as the Mayor said, like, you know, I'm a product of privilege, where all of us here are really a product of privilege, and how are we actually going to do something to address these problems, to address the concerns of people of color who are scared, constantly scared? How are we going to do that?
- We're not going to do that through this budget tonight.
- We're going to do it through other means, and we have to, as a city, be responsible, responsive, and listen to the concerns that we're hearing from the public and create a venue for that.

Councilmember Gurney commented as follows:

- Thanked the Vice Mayor for being so responsive to our public and the outpouring that all Council members have heard in the last few days.
- I don't imagine my computer picked it up, but it's 8:00 o'clock in my neighborhood, and the howling has returned and gotten really loud in the last few days.
- And while I interpret that as support for our healthcare workers our frontline people, I also interpret it as support for the protesters right now.
- I want to ask if there is something that can be offered as help to the Council rather immediately.
- I would really like to understand, from our city manager and police chief, what is our policy on knee holds and choke holds? What is our policy on the use of force continuum?
- Let's get that in writing so we know where we are right now, and then when we go on, if we have roundtables with the community, we have our starting point actually confirmed, because those

are questions I can't answer, and people are asking me, and they're asking all of us, where is our police department on all of this?

Mayor Slayter commented as follows:

- I'm going to echo that request for answers to those kinds of questions, but I'm also going to ask that we don't do it during the budget item.
- I don't want to mix the two things up.
- And as the Vice Mayor stated, we're not going to tonight unfortunately, solve issues that we have both locally and regionally nationwide with the City of Sebastopol's carryover budget, which, unfortunately, I wish we could address those things, but we cannot.
- What I'm going to do is ask for answers to those questions if we can, during the city manager report. Just so that we don't start crossing items.

Councilmember Carnacchi commented as follows:

- Wanted to make a quick comment and just to remind colleagues and the members of the public that we had an incident involving the police, it was either last year or the year before, where they received a call.
- A person was headed, I believe, from Santa Rosa with a gun who was suicidal who was going to hot mode, and a police officer responded, knowing -- I mean, that was the information that was given, gone suicidal, and were able to deescalate the situation without any violence and disarm that person, so I think that, you know, at the time, I thought that the police department should go public with that information, but the officer declined to do so, because he didn't want the accolades for being able to disarm the situation, but I just wanted to remind us all of that fact.
- Whatever policy we had in that particular case worked.

Councilmember Hinton commented as follows:

- I just want to say I remember that, because I was mayor, and I was in Hop Monk that night and received a call that did not go out to the public
- Our police department handled it beautifully.
- My sister was in law enforcement for 25 years - there's good police force out there.
- This is a human issue
- I heard what you said, Mayor, about staying on the budget item, but I did want to follow up on Councilmember Carnacchi's comment

Mayor Slayter moved and Councilmember Hinton seconded the motion to approve the direction to staff for the Interim Fiscal Year 2020-2021 City of Sebastopol Baseline Budget and return to the June 16th, 2020 City Council Meeting for adoption.

Mayor Slayter called for a roll call vote. City staff conducted a roll call vote.

VOTE:

Ayes: Councilmember Carnacchi, Gurney, Hinton, Vice Mayor Glass and Mayor Slayter

Noes: None

Absent: None

Abstain: None

City Council Action: Approved the direction to staff for the Interim Fiscal Year 2020-2021 City of Sebastopol Baseline Budget.

Minute Order Number: 2020-119

Mayor Slayter called for a break ta 8:00 pm and reconvened the meeting at 8:18 pm

7. Public Hearing – To conduct a Public Hearing on Interim FY 2020-2021 Capital Improvement Plan and Budget (Responsible Department: Engineering)

Engineering Manager Henry Mikus presented the agenda item recommending the City Council conduct a Public Hearing on Interim FY 2020-2021 Capital Improvement Plan and Budget.

Mayor Slayter asked for questions.

Councilmember Hinton commented as follows:

- Was hard to follow the report
- Discussed Park Village renovation which is on hold
- Questioned if this was because of the grant money and questioned if we were in jeopardy of losing those funds
- Was the project placed on hold by the City or by the people granting the money

Manager Mikus commented as follows:

- Two parts to that question
- The first item, the Park Village renovation, two apartments
- That was \$138,000 of grant money that Assistant City Manager Mary Gourley championed two years ago that we haven't still received.
- Discussed grant given to West County Community Services - That was the one where there was a conversation about being a sunset date - But that has been extended.
- And then the balance was a grant request for this last year to go towards the apartments, for around \$40,000. - What's happened with CDC is they took over a year to redo all their paperwork of their contracts. They've had a couple leadership changes, and in the last few months, they've had their staff doing other things for county, and so there has been no progress in getting us a formal grant award. Now, we've been told they're approved, but we have no money in hand.

Councilmember Hinton questioned if that is on hold until the city has the money in hand.

Manager Mikus stated that is correct.

Mayor Slayter opened the public hearing. Hearing no comments, Mayor Slayter closed the public hearing.

Council Deliberations:

Mayor Slayter commented as follows:

- Stated this also is an interim budget.

- will be on track with the budget when we discuss that in September

Councilmember Gurney commented as follows:

- Discussed the Burbank Farm restroom, \$65,000 project.
- Discussed the carryover of \$25,000 and \$40,000 budgeted but the project is put on hold

Manager Mikus commented as follows:

- Part of it came out of general fund money, and other parts of it came from a park measure called 68 that we thought were going to be there, formulate this a year ago.
- That money has not come to pass from the state.

Councilmember Gurney questioned if that is the \$40,000 not received from the State. Manager Mikus stated that is correct.

Councilmember Gurney stated we do not have \$65,000 in the account to spend. Manager Mikus stated that is correct. Councilmember Gurney stated that is confusing and stated that we have a public park without a restroom and we need to build the restroom. She stated it is confusing that the chart says we have money to do so but staff is saying we do not have the money.

Mayor Slayter commented as follows:

- That's a project that's gone through a little bit of a morphing as we go along
- I'm the architect of record for the potty, and the farm volunteers were hoping that it could get built largely with volunteer labor, and as we worked through that process, that was something that became clear it wasn't going to be a workable solution for it, in addition to public works, perhaps being able to provide some infrastructure work.
- The project needed to go through the public bid process, and that just becomes a larger thing
- once that determination was made, there's just been other things that have kind of elbowed their way to the front of the line.

Councilmember Gurney voiced the need for a restroom at this park.

City Manager McLaughlin commented as follows:

- Stated this budget will also return in September
- will be further reviewed by the Budget Committee in the normal course, probably in August or September so we'll have a better picture then on a number of things.
- And I definitely concur, everything the Mayor said is correct, about the difficulties with that project - But staff understands that this should be a high priority project.

Vice Mayor Glass moved and Councilmember Hinton seconded the motion to approve the Resolution Interim FY 2020-2021 Capital Improvement Plan and Budget.

Mayor Slayter called for a roll call vote. City staff conducted a roll call vote.

VOTE:

Ayes: Councilmember Carnacchi, Gurney, Hinton, Vice Mayor Glass and Mayor Slayter

Noes: None
Absent: None
Abstain: None

City Council Action: Approved the Resolution Interim FY 2020-2021 Capital Improvement Plan and Budget.

Minute Order Number: 2020-120
Resolution Number: 6296-2020

REGULAR CALENDAR AGENDA ITEMS (DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION) CONTINUED:

9. Consideration and Discussion of Approval of Actions Related to COVID -19 to Accommodate Outdoor Dining on Sidewalks and Public and Private Parking Areas (Responsible Department: Planning)

Planning Director Svanstrom presented the agenda item recommending the City Council Consider and Discuss Approval of Actions Related to COVID -19 to Accommodate Outdoor Dining on Sidewalks and Public and Private Parking Areas.

Mayor Slayter asked for questions. There were none.

Mayor Slayter opened for public comment.

Paul Fritz, and the CORE Project, submitted written comments for this agenda item that was submitted to the City Council.

Council Deliberations: There were no comments.

Councilmember Gurney moved and Vice Mayor Glass seconded the motion to approve the actions related to COVID -19 to Accommodate Outdoor Dining on Sidewalks and Public and Private Parking Areas.

Mayor Slayter called for a roll call vote. City staff conducted a roll call vote.

VOTE:

Ayes: Councilmember Carnacchi, Gurney, Hinton, Vice Mayor Glass and Mayor Slayter
Noes: None
Absent: None
Abstain: None

City Council Action: Approved the actions related to COVID -19 to Accommodate Outdoor Dining on Sidewalks and Public and Private Parking Areas.

Minute Order Number: 2020-122

Mayor Slayter re-opened the public comment for items not on the agenda.

Claire commented as follows:

- Thank you again for coming back and giving space for me to speak.
- So, I wrote in an email earlier today, you know, in hopes to kind of adding encouragement to open city dialogue about systemic racism.

- It sounds like other folks did as well.
- And I'm not joining the media on any kind of high horse or an assumption that I know anything more than anyone on the Council.
- I am a white woman, raised by white parents in Sebastopol.
- I'm really here just as a community member, wanting to say that it's important to me that our town is a safe and inclusive place for people of color.
- I'm sure that you all agree.
- At this point, I wanted to say that I think it's important that it be known that the Council wants to affirm and commit to this.
- I really appreciate the comments from earlier, from Councilmembers Gurney and Councilmember Hinton
- And I think I heard the mayor earlier addressing this as well
- I humbly encourage you all to kind of make these comments more public beyond the meeting notes, first and foremost.
- I think, importantly we're all aware of the composition of this new Council this year with regard to ethnicity, and I'm sure you've thought about this a ton, and thought about that we need diversity in the Council.
- I know that this is not something that's off on anyone, and I would bet that you've tried to recruit with regard to diversity and equity, and I would just say I think that's important, and I support your continued effort in this area.
- Those are really my two main areas.
- I'd appreciate a response when someone has a chance to read my email, to think about the ideas that are on the board or that I raised.
- Again, I am not any kind of expert in this area, just somebody who really cares.
- One thing that I raised in the letter was the potential for a civilian review board.
- I am a public health researcher, and when I think about how important our ethics review boards are for ensuring harm isn't done to recent participants, I think this could be a really beneficial thing for the community, and in the same light, I think that the roundtable idea raised before is a really great one as well, so I just wanted to voice my opinion there and thank you all for starting to discuss this, and just encouraging that you all let your voices be heard.
- I thought your words were really meaningful, and I think it would be good for the community to hear them.
- I think those words are really important and meaningful, so thank you.

City Manager McLaughlin commented on the comment regarding police department chokeholds and practices and stated it will come back as an agenda item.

- Spoke with the Acting Chief during the break and staff is proposing bringing back an agenda item for a full discussion of police tactics and training in our police departments.
- I'm not sure that we're prepared to do that tonight, and it's also not an agenda item.
- I was going to simply say, however, that the death in Minnesota that we all had seen the video concerning, the police department, we know here, no police department has that as any kind of a tactic.
- What that officer did that resulted in the death, that's not a tactic. That's not something police do here in our area.

- We don't know what happened in Minnesota as far as that individual taking their experience, but that's not something you do here.
- The subject of training tactic, when certain things are used, and when they are not is a subject that is quite complicated, because, as we know, our police officers meet new challenges daily.
- It's obvious that they a police officer and an officer's career is going to be constantly confronted with things for that officer may not have fully trained. You can't anticipate everything.
- It's possible that an officer in our police department has used some kind of a tactic or a physical device in defending himself against an attack that was necessary to defend himself. But that has to be seen in the context of defending himself versus the context of simply trying to get an individual to exit his vehicle. So, it's a tremendously complicated subject.
- I'm certainly happy to have our acting chief talk about that, but I did want to kind of frame it that way, that it's quite complicated.
- It's the tip of a large iceberg when we're talking about these tactics and it really will require a full-fledged agenda item.

CITY COUNCIL REPORTS:

10. City Manager-Attorney/City Clerk Reports:

- Updates on COVID 19 – this will be a routine report at each Council meeting

City Manager McLaughlin commented as follows:

- It now appears highly likely that there will be complete reopening of in-restaurant dining, in-store shopping, as well as church services and an expansion of the park openings, all of which is slated to occur -- with respect to parks, there's a press release out right now.
- With respect to the fully opening of restaurants and retail, we expect that to be announced later this week, officially, and we expect that to be approved to commence on Saturday.
- There is a small chance that that won't happen, given the need to have certain standards met with respect to the COVID 19 number of cases as it relates to our county population.
- So, there's a slight hedge to that bet, so to speak, that it is possible, if those numbers took a bad turn between now and Friday, say, so that would not happen.
- But it's significantly and highly likely of a more or less complete reopening in those areas, starting Saturday.
- So, we still felt the agenda item was needed, because our parklets businesses may not be ready to fully open.
- I've noticed over in Napa, just as an anecdotal thing, that restaurants were given the opportunity to reopen there, and a number of them were not able to do that right away, because they were not able to comply with the social distancing and other requirements.
- They hadn't rebuilt their restaurant or whatever they need to do in order to accomplish that, so they weren't ready to reopen.
- So, it's very possible that restaurant would still be taking advantage of the things that we discussed in that last agenda item.
- However, the possibility is that restaurants will start reopening widely, as well as retail.
- The city managers meet weekly with Dr. Mase. I'm not able to go into this in public, with the number of questions we have and are developing with respect to the announcement

that she made late today on the subject I just alluded to, and we plan on getting more information in our weekly meeting with her early Thursday morning.

- So, if there's something the Council needs to know on that, I would be addressing that by email.
- We are still working towards a reopening of City Hall. The timing of that is something that we work on or will work on kind of in combination with other cities and the county, trying to take the lead from them as to when they are all planning on reopening their respective city halls and offices.
- We have already planned for and are trying to get the materials to do the physical changes needed at City Hall in order to serve the public.
- We need to accomplish all those before we're able to reopen City Hall, and we want to do that in conjunction with other cities.
- We've got a number of inquiries of can I do this, can I do that, is such a thing allowed, can the city help me do this or do that?
- If it's a matter of interpretation of existing public health orders, again, I mentioned this before, but I'll just repeat it.
- The methods we used in that situation is, the police chief, or one of his staff members, must contact Sonoma County, County Counsel's Office and ask for an interpretation.
- So, that's the way we answer questions about whether businesses can operate in a certain way or not, whether they're legal, illegal, what are the details, how can they reopen, how can they operate, et cetera, is this an essential service, all those related questions.
- They are not city questions. They're questions that have to be answered by County Counsel's Office through the police department. You often see us bringing Acting Chief DeVore into this conversation right away on some question that comes up, because that's the individual on City staff that's mainly tasked with following up on these questions through the County Coun's Office and delivering the answer.
- I will get into some more Covid-19-related matters when I talk about CoMission and give you some information about CoMission's activities with this.

Vice Mayor Glass commented as follows:

- Wanted to clarify that I think when people hear the words "complete reopening," they sometimes translate that back to business as usual, like back to normal.
- What we're really talking about here is reopening of a lot of different kinds of businesses, but with new restrictions in our behavior.
- Is that correct?
- We're talking about reopening, but the restaurants are going to have more distancing, and people will be asked to wear masks; is that correct?

City Manager McLaughlin commented as follows:

- Stated that is correct
- What I've noticed in our community is there can be kind of a forgetfulness about some of the basics of how you operate these things.

- And you're right, you have to be very careful when you're saying restaurants will now reopen or in-restaurant dining.
- There has to be a comma after that, with protection for customers, social distancing and other requirements of existing public health orders complied with.
- And we have all seen anecdotally in many places, some people are becoming more lackadaisical about mask use. In some cases, it could be innocent.
- They just kind of forget that those have been a requirement ever since day one to go into those stores and businesses that were lifted as essential.
- You had to follow these protocols in order to go in that business as a customer, and those protections are still in the orders.
- For people that live with it every day, they may be forgetting that they need to go back and repeat that basic message again.
- Just make sure people haven't forgotten it. It's still applicable.
- I want to encourage that, because I haven't seen, frankly, a lot of evidence of that happening with respect to the new orders that come out.
- There's sort of an assumption that we're building on things that were previously ordered, but you already know what those are.
- I'm not going to feel safe going into a retail establishment unless they're complying with these public health orders, and I want to go into those businesses. I want to support them.
- And if customers are not in compliant, then that's going to have a chilling effect just on me personally to go into businesses that suddenly reopen, never mind restaurants where you're taking your own mask off.
- I think that basic message needs to be repeated

Councilmember Gurney questioned if the city manager/city attorney would be willing to comment on the circumstance of curfew in other cities in the city manager or city attorney conversations.

City Manager McLaughlin commented as follows:

- Some of the curfews that have been enacted are what I would call reactive.
- A city has had one or two protest gatherings, and they may have become violent, or looting may have taken place, then they decide to enact a curfew.
- You've seen at least one other city that enacted the curfew before a protest had even happened, and we are not planning on doing that.
- I don't want to kind of open an invitation publicly to anything, but I will say that that's not Sebastopol is about. We're about free public gatherings, political discourse. We are all about being able to express yourselves.
- We're not going to be, in my opinion, ordering a curfew up front just to be on the same side or something like that.
- But I can tell you that I don't know of any curfew in this county.
- And I have to be careful in this statement, because some of this information is confidential, but I don't know of any curfew in this county that's been enacted that was not without cause, specific cause, a public danger that needed to be dealt with.
- In Santa Rosa's cases, obviously, two nights of protesting that led to looting and some violence and a lot of arrests, that's what led to that curfew being enacted later in the weekend.

- Other cities, they might have information that you have developed that lead you to believe there is a potential threat, in which case you feel that you should enact a curfew, and it's not necessarily reactive to something that the public knows about.
- There was a question raised late this afternoon.
- Apparently, the County of Contra Costa has now done a county-wide curfew, and some of the city attorneys were asking whether there's any plans for our county to enact a county-wide curfew, similar to Contra Costa County. In Contra Costa County, that curfew applies to every city. As far as I've heard so far through County Counsel's reply, there are no such plans to have a county-wide curfew in Sonoma County.
- But, as you know, everything is subject to change, and what's correct today may be incorrect tomorrow.

Councilmember Carnacchi questioned if the City Manager would respond to the email regarding the Farmers Market.

City Manager McLaughlin commented as follows:

- There are two aspects to that particular question.
- Aspect number one is, can you do what the email writer would like to do at a farm market?
- That relates to the County Public Health orders and the interpretation of those orders by County Counsel's office, like I was talking about before. It has not been definitively answered.
- Chief DeVore brought the question to County Counsel's Office. The information he got was not exactly in accord with the email writer's statement. The information Chief DeVore got is that it's probably okay, and they would want to get back to him after a day or so.
- So, I don't believe that we have learned definitively from County Counsel's office that it is allowable under public health orders, so that's still probably to be determined.
- The second issue with respect to that, I just want to talk about generally.
- And that is, over the years, there have been questions raised through various managers of the farm markets, not here right now referring to the present market of the farm market at all, but past managers of the farm markets, it has been an issue, in my experience from time to time, whether or not craft sales, of that kind of vendor, could be permitted in the farm market, and that is a question that basically requires the City to address through its use permit requirements, can you do it, and if you can, are use permits granted to them; and, secondly, to what extent you can do it?
- It's also a question the farm market has to address, and that's a complicated subject that I'm really not prepared to go into tonight, because, frankly, I don't quite remember all the details, to be truthful. But to certify yourself as a farm market, you have to meet certain requirements, and my recollection, which could be flawed, is you have to have a certain amount of food-related and/or farm-related vendors there in order to comply with state requirements, and, secondly, it's another question for the farmer to what extent they want to allow that.
- Do they think it's a good idea to allow vendors of that type?
- Do they feel it has a chilling effect on the public going to the farm market for food items?
- So, it's also a question internal to the management of the farm market.
- So, that one subject is incredibly complicated, and I have endeavored to try and explain it to the best of my ability, but it's not an easy answer of sure you can do it or, no, you can't.

- Updates on Community/Economic Vitality Consultant Activities

City Manager McLaughlin reported as follows:

- We had our weekly meeting with the CoMission, our contacted CoMission today.
- We receive get weekly updates and are going to be bringing an agenda item to the agenda review committee meeting tomorrow
- We are tentatively scheduling CoMission to make a short presentation to the City Council at the City Council meeting of June 16th.
- We have one significant area, they have up-to-date information at the next Council meeting, where right now we're in the middle of the process, and we don't have that up-to-date information for tonight's meeting.
- Three general priorities that they're working on.
- One is to support local businesses; two is support for our nonprofits and community benefit organizations; and the third was support for food, security, and resiliency.
- So, the subjects have been business, community benefit organizations, and nonprofits, and food.
- With respect to the support for local businesses, they have done a survey, which is ongoing. That survey does not end until June 5.
- So, the results of that could be reported at the next City Council meeting, but that is midstream right now.
- This survey has gone out to 662 businesses here in town, and that's because we have a very, very large group of people who basically say they are operating a business.
- This could be from a major-sized business down to a sole proprietorship, or a business from someone's home. So, over 660 surveys have gone out across town, all over town, including the Barlow.
- What they are trying to ascertain on that, through that process, is some things are more general and some things are more specific. They're trying to get information where businesses would identify themselves and say they are in need of support with respect to limited governmental programs that are ongoing, and they need help.
- Part of this is to identify those businesses that actively need our help to get through the paperwork morass we talked about in a previous agenda item on this subject to directly help our businesses.
- And at the same time, it's to gather information to create longer-term strategies.
- So, this is a very specific survey process, on the one hand, to help our businesses that have been potentially injured or suffered or need help with respect to the pandemic.
- It is a longer-term process to find out -- and this is more in line with what the Council looked at when it gave the initial guidance with respect to this work months ago, to gather information to create longer-term strategies for these businesses.
- With respect to the support for the nonprofits and community benefits organizations, that is not quite as far along as what I just alluded to with the local businesses, but it's gotten going. We reached out to the Chamber and those downtown business associations. They are creating and will be creating a business leader virtual roundtable to engage with as many of our nonprofits and community benefit organizations as we can bring to the table. That process has just begun.

- But we anticipate a much fuller report on that at the June 16 City Council meeting.
- A survey is underway, and they're going to be scheduling individual meetings, as well as what I was talking about with the virtual roundtable.
- They're going to be scheduling meetings with each community benefit organization to review that organization's priority list.
- The survey is -- "underway," it is prepared and nearly finished.
- It will be updated and it will go out, and there will be a report on that on June 16th.
- And, finally, the food security and resiliency that, that item has not gotten its legs going yet, and hopefully more information on that at the next meeting.
- But we prioritize local businesses and nonprofit and community benefit organizations.
- Agenda item from CoMission with details to come on June 16th.

City Council Action: None Required. Informational Only.
Minute Order Number: 2020-123

11. City Council Reports/Committee/Sub-Committee Meeting Reports: (Reports by Mayor/City Councilmembers Regarding Various Agency Meetings/Committee Meetings/Sub-Committee Meeting /Conferences Attended and Possible Direction to its Representatives (If Needed) on Pending issues before such Boards)

Councilmember Hinton reported as follows:

- Discussed the graduation banners
- Discussed the graduation photo project
- Displayed the photos on the screen
- Photos to be left on display for about a month

Councilmember Gurney reported as follows:

- SCTA Report – SCTA is asking if this item will be coming back to the City Council for an updated presentation
- SCCC Community Newsletter from the Board of Directors
- Masks Distribution

Mayor Slayter displayed the masks for the Sebastopol Fire Department and Sebastopol Police Department that was made possible by a private donation.

Vice Mayor Glass reported as follows:

- Gravenstein Health Action
- will be some money left over from the dissolution of the district that will go into Gravenstein Health Action to seed it to become an ongoing organization, its own 501(c)(3) so that those projects can continue to be worked on and provide the services, the good services that they're doing.
- I think this is particularly pertinent to the City, because if we think about some of our discussion earlier this evening with people's concern about lack of social services, lack of mental health services, lack of programs that can help homelessness and on and on, this is a vehicle for doing that, and it is a vehicle for working on finding ongoing funding streams that can actually mitigate

us using our police department as a social service agency, and, instead, we can be having an organization that's going to be funding and helping us have kinds of services that are needed in West County to take care of these so many problems and issues around seniors, youths, mental health, health, and general wellness.

- Conducted a Tobacco Retail License meeting – the item will be coming to the City Council for a presentation soon

12. Council Communications Received
13. Future City Meeting Dates/Events (Informational Only): (See Agenda and City Web site for Up to Date Meeting Dates/Times)

ADJOURNMENT OF REGULAR MEETING:

Mayor Slayter adjourned the meeting at 9:37 pm. Meeting was adjourned to the City Council Special Meeting (Closed Session) scheduled for Wednesday, June 3, 2020 at 9:30 am (virtual meeting).

Respectfully Submitted:

Mary C. Gourley
Assistant City Manager/City Clerk, MMC